

# PROMOTER

July - August 2011

Volume 32 Number 4

***Psalms 119:105***

***Thy word is a lamp  
unto my feet, and a  
light unto my path.***

***KJV***

# State Mission Work Celebrates 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary



The Foundation Free Will Baptist Church in Grove celebrated its 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary on May 22, 2011 in a special service led by Church Planter Sam Smith. State Mission Director Brad Ransom and his wife attended the special service along with a hundred other people to help celebrate the momentous occasion. The church has done well in its three years and offers a full range of services to meet the needs of the people of the Grand Lake area. During the special service, four people were baptized after recently being

saved at the church during special services held last month. The church is gearing up for Vacation Bible School and other special events this summer. The South Grand River Association partnered with the State Mission Board to plant the church and has been very pleased at their progress and influence in the area. We would like to commend the Foundation FWB Church and Pastor Sam Smith for 3 faithful years of service and look forward to many more in the future. ❖



## Director, Board Members and Church Planters Attend Church Planting Conference

State Mission Director, several board members and church planters from the state attended the Exponential Church Planting Conference in Orlando, Florida in April. "The experience and practical ministry help was incredible" said Ransom. Board Chairman, Jim Harris reported that the conference was great for him as a pastor and board member. Church Planter, Scott Berglan said, the conference was "an incredible resource for church planters. It helped provide clarity for what we need to accomplish for the work of Christ." The conference helped our board retune our focus and opened our eyes to a new realm of possibilities for church planting in the state. In our board meeting following the conference we discussed revamping our church planting strategy to be able to plant more churches in a shorter amount of time using our current resources. We



believe revisiting the past practice of churches being planted out of a burning desire to see people saved is the key to planting more churches. Our board will focus on recruiting, assessing and training church planters and sending them to areas they feel called to plant a church. We also will encourage local churches to "mother" a daughter church by "sending" leadership and a core group to new areas where churches need to be planted. When the goal is people being saved there is a need for hundreds of new churches in Oklahoma. "Under our current system we can only plant a few churches every five or ten years" said Ransom, "and we need to be able to do much more than that. There are lost people in every community in Oklahoma and we want to do more to reach them." We are looking for men who are committed to the call to plant new churches and introduce the lost to Christ. ❖

## Bartlesville Hispanic Ministry Purchases Building



The Hispanic ministry led by Pastor Alfredo Botello has taken the state's first Hispanic ministry self-supporting. Bro. Alfredo and his family moved to Bartlesville in 2005 and began reaching out to the Hispanics in the area. The Faith FWB Church and Pastor Danny Hester was instrumental in the work and provided leadership and financial support for the ministry. Pastor Alfredo is passionate about training and discipleship and has raised up several leaders that will take oversight of the ministry in Bartlesville as he moves to Catoosa

(and continues services in the E. Tulsa area) to begin a new Hispanic ministry in partnership with Pastor Roger Ballard and the Woodcrest FWB Church. The Bartlesville Hispanic congregation is under contract to purchase a 7000 sq. ft. building in the down town area. They will be in the new facility in June and will continue to reach out in the Bartlesville area as well as E. Tulsa and Catoosa. We congratulate Bro. Alfredo, Bro. Danny and the congregations at Bartlesville for a job well done! ❖



## Giving Update



From time to time the question is asked, "How is TSP doing during this economic downturn?" The answer is best given in comparison to giving receipts to TSP over the past few years. To be straightforward, giving is down and every area of our ministry is feeling the downturn. 2008 was our best year for income in the past several years. In 2008 TSP (not including Coop) received just under \$749,000. In 2009 income declined to \$699,000. Another decline happened in 2010 with total receipts being \$634,000. So far, 2011 is tracking close

to income for 2010. We have a total TSP budget need of \$780,000 and are on track to fall significantly short of that need. When a shortfall occurs, all areas of our ministry; state missions, national home missions and international missions feel the shortfall. As a state, we have committed to supporting our missionaries. They are counting on us. They have no one else to count on for their financial support. God has called us all to "go into all the world." Without everyone's help, we can't accomplish what we have committed to do. Please help us pray that more will join the cause and that our regular supporters will continue and go above and beyond during this difficult time. ❖

# Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College Haiti 2011 ~ Mission Report

*Thanks to everyone who prayed for all the aspects of our 2011 Haiti trip. We also would like to thank those who invested their money in the future of Haiti.*



*Our Haiti Team 2011 (with a few Haitian kids)*

These were the members of the 2011 Hillsdale Haiti Team. We were a very diverse group with younger students as well as older students and some with mission experience and some with no mission experience. Over and over we heard “Your group is a hard working group” and “you guys really did a great job.”

Praise the Lord for His faithfulness in getting us there and for doing a great work through us. We made a difference in Haiti and in our own individual lives for His name’s sake.



*The Puppets Speak Out For Jesus*

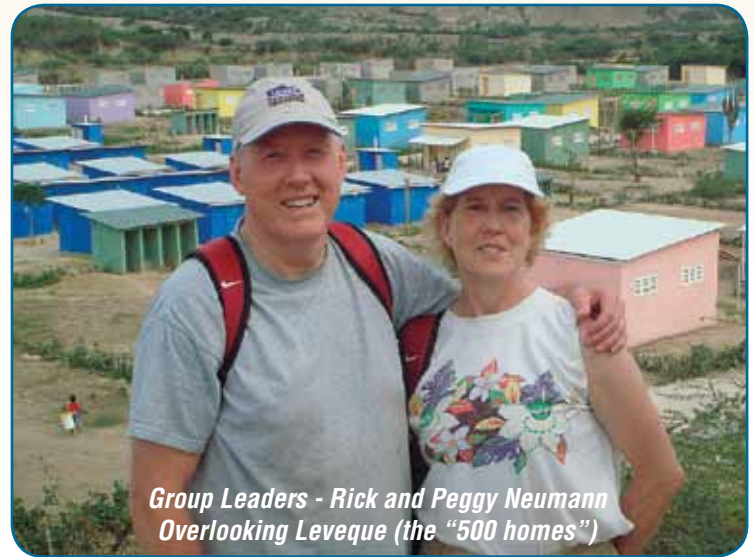
On two occasions we were able to set up our puppet ministry. The puppets sang to a CD and also to our interpreter’s leading of *Jesus Loves Me*.

Members of our team loved the people through the puppets, by playing soccer or wall ball, by holding children or playing with them, and by being kind and engaging in some type of communication whenever possible.

We were hot and tired most of the time but we did not tire of being with the people and offering our help whenever possible. To God be the glory and Jesus the praise.

The photo to the right shows several of the new homes that are being built for Haitians displaced by the 2010 earthquake.

The Hillsdale team was able to paint the inside and outside of 2 of the units during our trip in May. Naturally, each of our team members found time to minister to the local people, especially the children.



*Group Leaders - Rick and Peggy Neumann  
Overlooking Leveque (the “500 homes”)*

## HILLSDALE FREE WILL BAPTIST COLLEGE WORSHIP MUSIC STUDIES

Other projects were the painting of a home in a local village and work on the Mission of Hope compound. Visit the Mission of Hope website for more information on the many ministries they have ([mohhaiti.org](http://mohhaiti.org)).

This Fall Hillsdale will be offering a new Christian Ministry degree. Worship and Music Studies is designed to equip the student for worship leading and local church ministry while training them for vocal and instrumental (guitar or keyboard) proficiency. As the degree builds it will allow a student to specialize in worship leadership, youth ministry, missions, pastoral ministry or even a cross discipline such as business.

Not only will the student learn in the classroom but he will participate in music ministry teams, chapel band, and music groups like the college’s Concert Chorale. The degree will offer internship opportunities in local churches to better prepare the graduate for worship and music ministries. ☒

For more information concerning the degree you can contact:


- Jeff Sloan, CMIN Director at [jsloan@hc.edu](mailto:jsloan@hc.edu)
- David Flores at [gtar.flores@yahoo.com](mailto:gtar.flores@yahoo.com)
- Mike Lewis at [mlewis@crosspointe.tv](mailto:mlewis@crosspointe.tv)

# 2011 OK STATE COMPETITION WINNERS

A	0.01	Asa Humble	Bible Memorization	Ada First
A	0.02	Tara Shaw	Bible Memorization	Rejoice
A	0.03	Karley Stem	Bible Memorization	Community
B	0.04	Seth Humble	Bible Memorization	Ada First
B	0.05	Kenzy Plank	Bible Memorization	Mineral Springs
B	0.06	Brynn Jones	Bible Memorization	Rejoice
D	0.12	Antonio Macareno	Bible Memorization	Clarksville
B	0.26	Rejoice Group Mem.	Group Memorization	Rejoice
D	0.31	Clarksville Group Mem.	Group Memorization	Clarksville
B	0.40	1 <sup>st</sup> Place - Mineral Springs	Bible Millionaire	Mineral Springs
B	0.40	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place - Rejoice	Bible Millionaire	Rejoice
B	0.44	Levi Smith	Bible Sword Drill	Rejoice
B	0.66	1 <sup>st</sup> Place - Korry Burr	Bible Sword Drill	Rejoice
B	0.66	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place - Brynn Jones	Bible Sword Drill	Rejoice
C	0.70	1 <sup>st</sup> Place - Mineral Springs	Bible Tic Tac Toe	Mineral Springs
C	0.70	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place - Clarksville	Bible Tic Tac Toe	Clarksville
D	0.92	Sara Levi	TruthQuest (at NYC only)	Clarksville
A	1.10	Kaiya Bemo	Vocal Solo	Oilton First
B	1.10	Abby Jo Johnson	Vocal Solo	Bristow
C	1.20	Thomas Jamison	Vocal Solo - Male	Garden Heights
D	1.20	Joshua Sloan	Vocal Solo - Male	Skyridge
C	1.30	Sorey Robinson	Vocal Solo - Female	Lowery
D	1.30	Christian Sloan	Vocal Solo - Female	Skyridge
C	2.20	Brett & Shania	Vocal Duet	Lowery
C	2.30	Allen Trio	Vocal Trio	Allen
B	2.40	Oilton First Kids	Vocal Quartet	Oilton First
C	2.40	Bristow Quartet	Vocal Quartet	Bristow
B	2.50	RC Kids	Vocal Ensemble	Rejoice
D	2.50	Clarksville Ensemble	Vocal Ensemble	Clarksville
C	3.10	Kayla Smith	Instrumental Solo - Woodwinds	Bristow

C	3.40	Theron Perry	Instrumental Solo - Plucked Str.	Bristow
C	4.10	Theron & Jarred	Instr. Ensemble	Bristow
A	5.10	Elizabeth Dougherty	Keyboard Solo	Cornerstone
B	5.10	Korry Burr	Keyboard Solo	Rejoice
C	5.10	Theron Perry	Keyboard Solo	Bristow
D	6.11	Lane Murphy	Sign Language - Individual	Muskogee First
B	6.12	Mineral Springs	Sign Language - Group	Mineral Springs
C	6.12	Mineral Springs	Sign Language - Group	Mineral Springs
D	6.12	Lane & Bradley	Sign Language - Group	Muskogee First
B	6.51	Clarksville (Mullins/Smith)	Puppetry - Live	Clarksville
D	6.51	Westside Puppets	Puppetry - Live	Westside
C	6.52	Ten Hands Up for Christ	Puppetry - Recorded	Greenbrier
C	6.43	Lie Detector	Group Drama	Rejoice
A	7.10	Gabby Brown	Painting	Greenbrier
C	7.10	Christopher Breeden	Painting	Greenbrier
D	7.10	Sarah Vaughn	Painting	Greenbrier
A	7.20	Jenna Avery	Drawing	Greenbrier
B	7.20	Heather Springer	Drawing	Greenbrier
B	7.30	Molly Cherry	Mixed Media	Mineral Springs
B	7.51	Brynn Jones	Photography - Single Photo	Rejoice
C	7.51	Avery Jones	Photography - Single Photo	Rejoice
D	7.51	Sarah Vaughn	Photography - Single Photo	Greenbrier
A	7.52	Zoe Robb	Photography - Photo Essay	Greenbrier
A	7.61	Justina Rhodes	Textiles - Banners	Greenbrier
B	7.62	Rosie Hatfield	Textiles - Banners	Clarksville
C	7.62	Da'Von Jackson	Textiles - T-shirts	Clarksville
D	7.62	Kasey Macareno	Textiles - T-shirts	Clarksville
B	7.80	Remington Breeden	Conceptual Art	Greenbrier
C	x.20	The Battle	Human Video	Rejoice




 The Oklahoma CE Board is offering scholarships to the D6 Conference (Sept. 21-23) in Frisco, TX. Scholarships are available to OK FWB Pastors. Scholarships are for the conference registration only (the pre-con labs are an additional fee). They will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. For information on obtaining one, please contact Curt Gwartney at [4gwartney@sstelco.com](mailto:4gwartney@sstelco.com) or by phone at 918-857-1150.

# ACM, Providing Light in the Midst of Darkness...



On April 27, several southeastern states were ravaged by tornados. On May 22, Joplin, MO was struck by one of the most devastating tornadoes in US history. On both occasions, Oklahoma FWB's responded by providing generators to those without power. Approximately 30 households were powered by ACM generators in May and April, as well as the Salvation Army relief tent in Joplin and the Generations Church clean-up crew. The people ministered to were very appreciative of our efforts. Thank you for your generous support that allowed us to provide light in the midst of darkness.

If you would like to make a donation to the ACM Disaster Relief, you can mail donations to the address below. ☒

ACM Disaster Relief  
c/o John Hewett  
405 Magnolia  
Tahlequah, OK 74464



*John Hewett*  
Director  
Arms of Compassion  
A ministry of Oklahoma  
Free Will Baptists

## 2011 National Convention Charlotte, NC – July 17-20



### Convention Speakers

- Sunday School (10:00 am – 10:45 am) – *Rodney Holloman*
- Sunday Morning Worship (11:00 am to noon) – *Jim Walker*
- Sunday Evening Worship (7:00 pm – 8:30 pm) – *Robert E. Picirilli*
- Monday Evening Worship (7:00 pm – 8:30 pm) – *Billy Hanna*
- Tuesday Evening Worship (7:00 pm – 8:30 pm) – *Jeff Jones*
- Wednesday Evening Worship (6:45 pm – 8:45 pm) – *Keith Burden*

If you are unable to attend the National Convention but would like to watch the Worship Services, you can view them at [www.nafwb.org](http://www.nafwb.org) through a live webcast link. Just go to the website at the date and time for the service you are interested in and click on the webcast link to view it live.

## CALENDAR of EVENTS

**2011 National Convention –**  
*July 17-20 – Charlotte, NC*

**Hillsdale Enrollment -**  
*Freshmen Arrive August 10, 2011*  
*Returning Students Arrive –*  
*August 16, 2011*

**D6 Conference –**  
*September 21-23, 2011 – Dallas Texas*

**2011 State Meeting –**  
*October 10-12 – Owasso, OK*

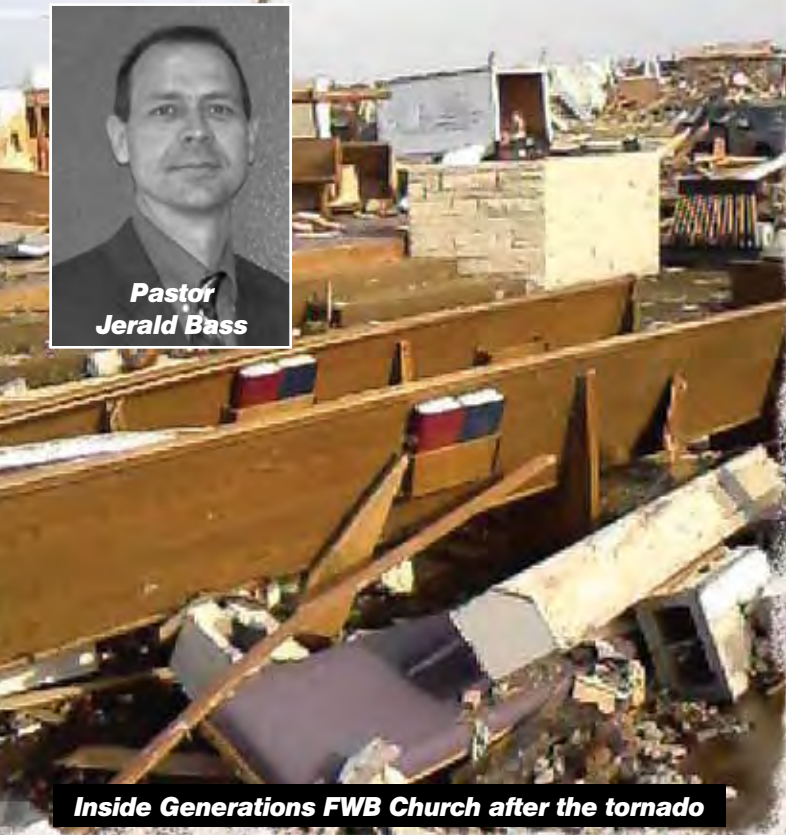
**Leadership Conference –**  
*December 5-6, 2011 – Nashville, TN*

# Bixby FWB Assists Tornado Victims

by Melinda Smith



Pastor  
Jerald Bass



Inside Generations FWB Church after the tornado

Little did Jerald Bass know that less than one year after completing his military service as United States Army Chaplain in Operation Iraqi Freedom, he would likely face his biggest challenge in life as pastor of the Generations Free Will Baptist Church in Joplin, Missouri.

On Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> Jerald and two of his daughters were at church when a massive and deadly tornado struck and destroyed the church building. Miraculously, Jerald, his daughters, and several church members were crouching beneath tables for protection and were unharmed by the tornado. In another miracle, the Bass family had recently moved from the parsonage to another house in Joplin which was spared from the tornado.

Recently, Jerald served as United States Army Chaplain for the 389<sup>th</sup> Combat Sustainment Support Battalion in Iraq. Since his deployment period exceeded one year in length, the Bixby Free Will Baptist Church “adopted” Jerald and his family while Jerald was serving our country. “We were thrilled to pray for them and buy the family Christmas presents while Jerald (husband of Cassie and dad of 5 children) was stationed in Iraq. While they never asked for help, they were always so grateful for everything our church family provided. Each one (including the 5 year old at the time) wrote a thank you note expressing their gratitude. We grew to love them as our own family.” said Melinda Smith, one of the members of Bixby Free Will Baptist Church.

This past week, longtime Bixby resident, electrician, and Bixby Free Will Baptist Church member, Don Allen was in Joplin completing the necessary wiring to run the generators provided by the Arms of Compassion organization. His work included providing the electrical work and generators for the Salvation Army tent as well as providing power for an 88 year-old survivor and grateful resident of Joplin.

Bixby residents and church members Jerry and Tammy Lawson helped to salvage a few items that can possibly be utilized when the Generations Free Will Baptist Church rebuilds.

Amidst the debris and choking back tears, Tammy stated that the scene “was like 9/11 all over again” yet also was moved by the many hearts of compassion when she stated that “there are people holding chainsaws walking up and down the streets begging people to let them help.”

As folks were working on salvaging parts of the church, suddenly, mid-afternoon on Saturday, there was a stark reminder of the emotional and devastating impact of the storm, as the Bass family left to attend one of the many funerals that will be held in Joplin. They are grieving the loss of friends themselves yet they continue to minister to the needs of others. While many of us are praying for physical and emotional strength for the folks in Joplin, our minds often think of one of the great promises found in Matthew 5:4 KJV . . . *Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted.*

Tammy, mother of a United States Army soldier, is especially passionate about helping those serving in the military as her son, Chris, has served in the military for approximately 12 years and has completed at least two tours of duty in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Incidentally, during the Memorial Day weekend, Chris helped to frame a house that was destroyed in a tornado in Grove, Oklahoma. Bixby residents Brian, Gregg, Shelby, Ronnie and Wanda Gibson also assisted in beginning to rebuild the home in Grove.

Amidst the disaster, Don Allen spoke of having some of his faith in humanity restored as he worked most of the week in the Joplin area. One of many examples of compassion is that the high school seniors in nearby Carthage, Missouri had raised \$15,000 for their senior trip. Realizing the enormity and gravity of the situation in Joplin, the seniors chose instead to donate the money for the Joplin relief efforts.

Jerald and Cassie Bass have many strong connections to the Oklahoma area. Cassie was raised in the Tulsa area and Jerald was an Associate pastor of Children and Youth at the Allen Free Will Baptist Church in Sand Springs for awhile. Rev. J.C. Morgan, Bixby resident and retired pastor of Lawnwood Free Will Baptist Church in Tulsa, was the pastor for several years to Cassie’s family and states the following: “Jerald and Cassie are solid individuals. They are just good folks.”

Many people have expressed a strong desire to help the folks in Joplin by donating funds. It is also important to those making donations to know that the funds are being utilized effectively and efficiently. “Personally, I cannot think of a more humble, deserving, and grateful family than Jerald and Cassie Bass. It is pure joy to encourage and support a family who doesn’t request help yet have helped others so faithfully in the ministry.” states Smith.

Perhaps there has never been a better time to minister to the residents of Joplin. The Bixby Free Will Baptist Church is accepting donations on behalf of the Generations Free Will Baptist Church in Joplin. The donations will be sent to Generations Free Will Baptist Church in care of Pastor Jerald Bass when there is a viable address/P. O. Box. For those readers who would like to send monetary donations, checks can be written and mailed to:

**Bixby Free Will Baptist Church**

15801 S. Memorial Drive

Bixby, OK 74008

Please write Generations FWB Church on the memo line of the check. ✉

---

**Editor’s note,**

Thank you to Bixby FWB and several other Oklahoma FWB Churches that have responded to the spring tornados in significant ways. Oh, I am also trying to find out who wrote this article so we can add that information. As soon as I hear back from someone I will let you know.

# “Preach the word”

These words of the Apostle Paul to the young preacher Timothy found in 2 Timothy 4:2 are timeless words of instruction to any who would heed the call to gospel ministry. Consider with me two failures to Paul’s simple but profound instruction. First, there are ministers who speak Sunday after Sunday about concepts such as mercy, love, and compassion, but rarely mention Scripture at all and then only in a way as to substantiate what they (the ‘preachers’) want to say. They use Scripture in the same manner that they use sayings of great historical leaders. By so doing, they diminish the authority of Scripture in the minds of their listeners and give far too much importance to man’s wisdom.

I listened to a message of a well-known ‘minister’ a few days ago. His message was almost void of any mention of Scripture. His message was simple. I can sum it up in two words: ‘Just Smile’. That’s it. Twenty five minutes of speaking and that is the gist of the sermon. I trust that you who are reading this article are discerning enough to understand that such speaking cannot in the true sense be called ‘preaching’. The message for the most part was meaningless dribble and yet thousands are embracing such nonsense and seem to care little that Scripture has so little importance on the platform of their ‘preacher’.

The second failure I sometimes hear from pulpits today is the practice of reading a passage of Scripture to begin a sermon, but then immediately go on a tirade of all the things the speaker is displeased with

in the world. They too often do not refer again to the Scripture they read or any other Scripture for that matter.

I have witnessed well-meaning men who were sincere in their desire to do a work for God stand in the pulpit, speak with passion but frankly had very little regard for declaring God’s Word. They simply delivered what was on their minds not what was in God’s Word. This failure too can lead to fruitless ministries.

The practice of either of these failures will weaken the opportunity for the listeners to experience true conversion, spiritual growth and personal ministry. I wish to thank every preacher who takes seriously the commission to “*Preach the Word*”. May we be reminded that our effectiveness depends not on how unique or clever we can be but rather it depends on whether we delivered it accurately and clearly.

*For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.* Heb 4:12. ✠



*Bro. Mike*

*Written by Mike Wade,  
Executive Director for  
Oklahoma Free Will Baptists*

# Promoter

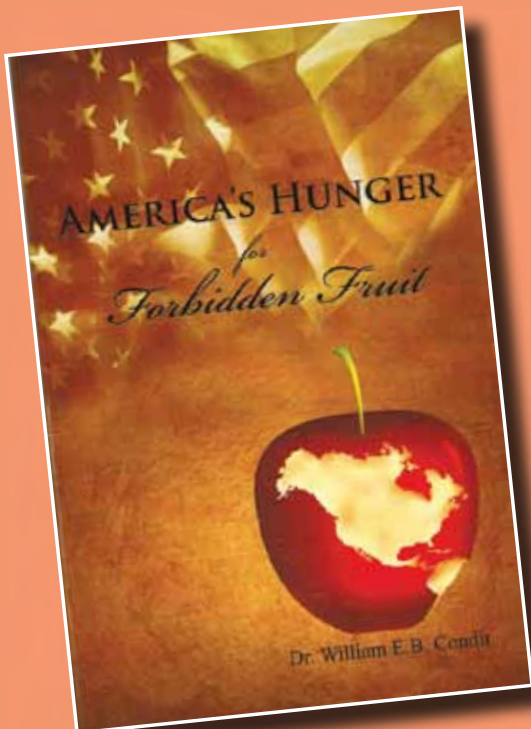
Oklahoma State Assoc.  
of Free Will Baptist  
P.O. Box 7527  
Moore, Oklahoma 73153

*Return Service Requested*

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Oklahoma City, OK  
Permit No. 305

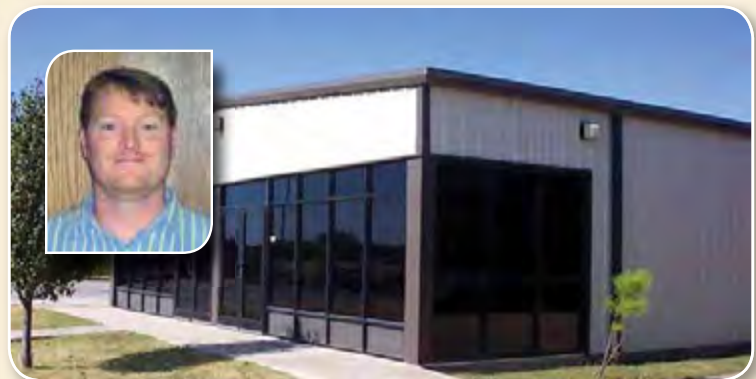
Mike Wade, Director • 405.912.9400 • Email: [mwade@okfwb.org](mailto:mwade@okfwb.org)

## New Book by Free Will Baptist Author



**Books can be ordered through Rusty at the FWB Literature Center at 1-800-344-6186 or directly from the author, Dr. William E.B Condit at 918-824-1692.**

Thank you for using the Free Will Baptist Literature Center and supporting Oklahoma. We exist to provide our Oklahoma Churches with quality service in supplying Sunday School Literature, VBS materials, and video resources. We also can supply you with the latest books, group units, and Church resources. By using the Literature Center you also support many Oklahoma ministries which include: Missions, Hillsdale FWB College, Ministerial Scholarships, and Minister's Retreats.



**OK Literature Center • Rusty Harrison, Manager • 1-800-344-6186 or 912-9100**